

## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION PORTADOWN AND WEST DOWN DIVISION

A MEETING of this division of the B.M.A. was held in the C.B. Café, Scotch Street, Armagh, on Wednesday, 9th November, 1932, at 4 p.m. Dr. James Boyd, Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Labour, N.I., delivered an address, "Some Problems of the Panel Practitioner." This paper will be published in the next number of the

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## THE ULSTER MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE first meeting of the Ulster Medical Society was held in the Medical Institute on Thursday, 20th October, at 8.30 p.m. The outgoing president, Mr. S. T. Irwin, introduced the president-elect, Professor C. G. Lowry, who delivered his presidential address: "The Problem of Uterine Cancer." This address is published elsewhere in this number of the Journal. Before delivering his address, Professor Lowry referred to the loss which the Society had sustained in the death of several of its members during the session.

"DR. CHARLES J. ALEXANDER joined the Society in 1920 when he was superintendent of the Forster Green Hospital. I knew him as a student, as a young practitioner, and finally as superintendent. He was a man of high ideals, unfailing industry, and a courage that, tested by a long struggle with ill-health, never failed him. The last few years of his life he was unable to practise his profession, but he maintained to the end his cheerful outlook.

"DR. JAMES GRAHAM was elected a Fellow of this Society so long ago as 1877, before many of the present Fellows and Members were born. He was one of the oldest Fellows of the Society and, in spite of his years, a man of great activity. He occupied the presidential chair in the session 1899-1900, and for the last twenty-seven years of his life was intimately brought into touch with many of the members of our profession through his official position as City Coroner. In the early part of his career he was an Alderman in the City Council and a prominent and active member of the Public Health Committee. Few practitioners were so generally beloved by their patients; they paid him a signal compliment some years ago in presenting him with a Daimler limousine. Kindly, cheery, and a good friend, he will be much missed.

"PROFESSOR JAMES ALEXANDER LINDSAY, elected a Fellow almost fifty years ago in the year 1883, a former secretary of the Society, president in the session 1897-98, and one of our trustees. Distinguished alike as a physician, teacher, author, and scholar, he has left his mark on this Society and on the Belfast School of Medicine. He was my teacher, colleague, and in later years I had the privilege of his friendship. I have never been in contact with a more precise and orderly mind, and his gifts were by no means merely clinical and academic. He was well-read, a good companion, and an invaluable member of a dinner committee—a connoisseur of both the menu and the wine list. In earlier days he was an enthusiastic golfer, and he presented the first golf trophy to this Society, the Lindsay Cup. He was one of the

finest teachers of clinical medicine in this country ; hundreds of students owe to his teaching and example a sound foundation in the principles of their art. Many of the philanthropic and educational institutions in this city had the benefit of his energy and advice, notably the Royal Victoria Hospital, which he served as physician and chairman of the Board of Management, and the Maternity Hospital, of which he was also the chairman. His influence had much to do with the amalgamation which resulted in the new Maternity Hospital, while his services in the foundation of the Dental School were also outstanding. I had the good fortune to be his student when his teaching capabilities were at their zenith, and any virtues which I possess as a teacher I must unhesitatingly ascribe to his example. He was a rare example of the scholar-physician, and his like we shall not soon see again.

"DR. WALTER SMYTH was elected a Fellow of the Society in 1896. He distinguished himself in his final examination, and was afterwards demonstrator in anatomy in the Queen's College and clinical assistant in Ophthalmology in the Royal Hospital. He devoted himself to the department of mental diseases, where his energy, ability, and sympathy with his patients won him the confidence of his Board in the Country Antrim Asylum, and the affection of those who were committed to his care. His death at a comparatively early age was a loss to this Society and to the branch of the profession of which he was a member.

"DR. J. ERNEST WHYTE was a Fellow of the Society from 1902. After serving as house surgeon and house physician in the old Royal Hospital in Frederick Street, Dr. Whyte practised successfully in the Knock district. Within the last few years failing health curtailed his activities, but could not damp the quiet courage with which he faced the future. He was a singularly genial man whom it was a pleasure to meet, and he enjoyed in a marked degree the confidence and esteem of his patients. He also was carried off at a comparatively early age, and leaves the Ulster Medical Society and the profession in this city the poorer for his death.

"To the relatives of these our deceased Fellows we tender our respectful sympathy."

The second meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 3rd November, in the Medical Institute, at 8.30 p.m. The president, Professor Lowry, was in the chair. Mr. C. G. A. Woodside read a paper entitled "Acute Appendicitis: A Review of Cases." This paper raised an animated discussion. It is published elsewhere in this number of the Journal.

The third meeting of the Society was held on Thursday, 10th November, in the Medical Institute at 8.30 p.m. The president, Professor Lowry, was in the chair. Dr. W. Edgecombe (Harrogate) delivered an address on "The Principles of Spa Treatment." Dr. Edgecombe first pointed out that the value of spa treatment did not consist merely in "taking the waters," but in a summation of a number of factors: drinking the medicinal waters, dieting, bathing, recreation, change of climate, etc. He then gave an account of the different types of waters peculiar to each of the British spas, and stated that although there were wide variations in the chemical content of each spa, all spa treatments were based on the same fundamental principle, that was, the regulation of disturbances in metabolism in the patient. The

elimination of all waste and toxic products through the bowel, kidneys, and skin was stimulated; the liver was activated; the blood and lymph circulation was improved; the amount and nature of the diet was regulated, as was the amount of daily exercise and rest. In addition, any septic focus was removed. Dr. Edgecombe said that in the acute phases of disease, spa treatment had no place, but that it was of great value in cases of chronic disease. He gave examples of its value in cases of anæmia, functional neurosis, arterio-sclerosis, hyperpiesia, rheumatic affections, intestinal disorders, D.A.H., skin diseases, etc. Spa treatment he held to be of especial value in rheumatism, both in the infective and the non-infective varieties; he also held that it was ideal for gout. Obesity, he said, was not a suitable condition for spa treatment unless due to some concomitant disease. Professor C. G. Lowry and Dr. George Lyttle paid tributes to the value of Dr. Edgecombe's treatment of patients whom they had sent to him in Harrogate. Professor W. W. D. Thomson moved a vote of thanks to Dr. Edgecombe for his interesting address, and Dr. Robert Marshall seconded. At the conclusion of the paper a series of cinematograph films was shown. These illustrated the various forms of bath treatment—Aix, neddle, Russian, Turkish, peat, foam, etc.—employed in the Royal Baths in Harrogate.

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH-EAST ULSTER DIVISION

THE Division met in The Café, Coleraine, on Friday, 30th September. The chairman, Dr. S. J. Bolton, presided. The Golf Cup, kindly presented by the chairman, was handed to Dr. T. Adams, the winner of last season's competition. Dr. Huey and Dr. Sloan Bolton gave interesting accounts of the centenary meeting of the Association in London. Dr. S. J. Bolton then read his address from the chair: "Changes in General Practice During Forty Years." This paper will be published in the April number of this Journal.

The Division met in The Café, Coleraine, on Friday, 28th October. The chairman, Dr. S. J. Bolton, presided. Dr. J. A. L. Johnston, Derry, read a paper on "The Zondek-Ascheim Reaction for Pregnancy." The theory and technique of the test were explained. Valuable information was obtained in cases of hyatid mole, as the test gave a positive reaction as long as any of the mole remained in the uterus. The test was sometimes positive in ovarian disease.

The Division met in the Cottage Hospital, Coleraine, on Friday, 25th November. The chairman, Dr. S. J. Bolton, presided. Dr. Sloan Bolton gave a short account of a visit to the spas of Germany. The speaker was one of a party of British medical men who visited some of the leading German spas. At each spa lectures and demonstrations were given, and there were ample facilities for studying the work carried on. A noteworthy feature was the very moderate expense entailed by patients visiting the spas. AACHEN, situated near the Belgian and Dutch frontiers, is noted for the treatment of rheumatism. It possesses alkaline, muriatic, and

sulphur springs. WILDUNGEN is famous for the treatment of gall-bladder and kidney disorders. At NAUHEIM there are wonderful CO<sub>2</sub> springs, so rich in the gas that the baths are made of wood, as porcelain and even the pipes corrode. These baths are suitable for mild cardiac cases. NEUENAHN treatment is suitable for metabolic disturbances, especially diabetes, gastro-intestinal disorders, and kidney and gall-bladder diseases. Information regarding any of these spas may be obtained from Herr Rohme, 90 Sheaveshill Avenue, Colindale, N.W.9.

Following this short paper there was an exhibition of Kodak medical films :  
(1) Reduction of crush fractures of the spine, by R. Watson Jones, Liverpool;  
(2) Treatment of a normal breech presentation.

J. HUNTER, *Hon. Secretary.*

1 Mervue, Portrush.

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## BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION—TYRONE DIVISION

A MEETING of the Tyrone Division, B.M.A., was held in the County Hospital, Omagh, on Thursday, 3rd November, 1932. The subject for consideration was the new Mental Treatment Act. After a prolonged discussion the following resolutions were passed :—

“That the Tyrone Division, British Medical Association, objects strongly to the provisions of the new Mental Treatment Act in so far as it only provides for payment, in the case of rate-aided patients, if such patient is certified insane, thus laying the profession open to the charge of certifying unjustly for the purpose of obtaining a fee.”

“That the Tyrone Division, British Medical Association, considers the fees under the new Mental Treatment Act utterly inadequate.”

“That the Tyrone Division, British Medical Association, feels that in recent Acts, the interests of the general practitioner would have been better safeguarded if there had been a genuine general practitioner in Parliament, and that such an M.P. should fittingly represent Queen's University, Belfast. They therefore ask each division of the Ulster Branch to instruct its representatives in the Council to press for the inclusion of such a man at the next election, in place of the late Dr. Morrison, who so ably protected our interests.”

This meeting of the Division was a special one, and all dispensary medical officers of the area were invited to attend, as the Act so closely affects them.

GEORGE GILLESPIE, *Hon. Secretary.*

Ballygawley, Co. Tyrone.

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## BELFAST MEDICAL STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

THE opening meeting of the session 1932-3 was held in the McMordie Hall, Students' Union, on Friday, 4th November, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Purce, F.R.C.S., the

outgoing president, occupied the chair. He introduced the new president, Mr. T. S. Holmes, F.R.C.S., who took for the subject of his address, "Some Experiences as Assistant to a General Practitioner." Mr. Holmes gave an account of the life and work of a general practitioner in the mining districts of County Durham about twenty-five years ago. Every morning, said Mr. Holmes, between forty and fifty patients were seen, and each insisted on having a bottle of medicine irrespective of the complaint. The medicine was made up by the doctor himself. The surgery end of the practice took place in the evening, and was scattered over a wide area. There was also a large midwifery practice, and although there was no skilled help and few of the elaborate aseptic precautions of the present day, it was remarkable how few cases of infection occurred. The good results were due largely, said Mr. Holmes, to the great personal resistance of the mothers, who were well fed and well housed.

Mr. Donnan proposed that a vote of thanks be passed to Mr. Holmes for his very interesting address. Mr. Armstrong seconded this proposal. The chairman put the proposal to the meeting, and it was passed by acclamation.

During the session addresses will be given by Colonel J. W. Langstaff, D.S.O., R.A.M.C.; Professor Young, M.A., M.D., and others. The annual dance will be held in the Students' Union on 27th January, 1933. There will also be a debate with the Literary and Scientific Society, and the students themselves will read papers on Students' Night.

R. B. BOAL, *Hon. Secretary.*

Students' Union Society.

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## LISBURN AND DISTRICT MEDICAL GUILD

THE November meeting of the Guild was held in Dr. J. G. Johnston's house, Lisburn. Dr. Johnston occupied the chair, and Dr. Richard McCulloch gave an address on "Malignant Disease of the Lungs." Dr. McCulloch demonstrated, by X-ray films, the radiographic features of the condition. He said many believed that this disease is much more frequent than formerly. He thought, however, that increasing frequency of recorded cases cannot be wholly accounted for by the improved methods of diagnosis. The majority of cases of intra-thoracic new growths, he pointed out, are carcinomata arising in the bronchi. Dullness with silence, and paralysis of the left recurrent laryngeal nerve, are signs which, even in the absence of other phenomena, should be regarded with the gravest suspicion. He emphasises the importance of tracheal displacement, both clinically and radiologically. The end results, he said, are often very distressing from stenosis of the bronchus with asphyxia. A discussion followed, after which the thanks of the meeting were conveyed to Dr. McCulloch for his excellent address.

J. W. PEATT, *Hon. Secretary.*

14 Railway Street, Lisburn.

## THE LONDONDERRY MEDICAL SOCIETY

THE first meeting of the session 1932-3 was held in the City and County Infirmary at 4.30 p.m. on Friday, 7th October, 1932. The outgoing president, Dr. J. G. Cooke, nominated Dr. S. H. B. Allison to fill the office in the ensuing session. This met with the unanimous approval of the members present, and Dr. Allison was declared elected.

Dr. K. O. Robertson read notes of a case of localised empyema which had given a good deal of trouble both in diagnosis and in treatment.

Dr. J. A. L. Johnston gave a demonstration of specimens illustrating the Friedman modification of the Zondek-Ascheim test for the diagnosis of pregnancy. Dr. Johnston stated that the test had been proving to be of value, as it was apparently quite possible to make a certain diagnosis at a very early stage. He then quoted a case of vesicular mole, in which the test done after curettage indicated that the mole had not been completely removed, which was proved by the fact that more pathological material was discovered when a second curettage was done.

The second meeting of the session was held on 10th November, 1932, when a paper was read by Dr. John Watson, who chose as his subject "Confusional Insanity." Dr. Watson explained that this group of cases could be best described and defined as toxic insanity, because in all these cases the underlying cause was toxic in origin. The mental confusion due to alcohol is well known, also that associated with severe toxic infections, such as pneumonia, typhoid, scarlet fever, etc. Here the mental confusion or delirium is regarded as a troublesome though often a grave sign. In some cases the delirium may be so severe and so cloud the picture that the underlying cause may be missed. This is frequently seen in cases of uræmia, the whole attention being fixed on the delirium. He urged complete clinical investigation of all cases of mental confusion.

The speaker then discussed delirium tremens, and pointed out that an antibody is formed as a protection against the effects of alcohol. Should the intake of alcohol for any reason suddenly cease, this large quantity of antibody is circulating in the blood-stream, and the theory is advanced that the delirium is due to this antibody. Acting on this assumption, it would seem rational to administer alcohol in gradually diminishing doses during the early days of the delirium.

The speaker also dealt with insanity of pregnancy, and puerperal insanity, which, in his opinion, were due to toxæmia. The toxin probably arose from the placenta. He stated that hyperemesis gravidarum and eclampsia are undoubtedly toxic conditions, and that these clear up after the removal of the offending placenta. It is fair to assume that the toxin present may, in certain predisposed persons, have a selective action causing insanity. The mental confusion may occur during the early months of the pregnancy, during the latter months, or immediately after parturition. The first of these groups has an excellent prognosis, the patient usually recovering before the termination of the pregnancy. The placenta may cease to be toxic, or the patient may develop a satisfactory antibody. In the second group, the insanity occurs because the patient is unable to maintain the supply of antibody. In the

third group, the insanity may be caused by a large amount of antibody circulating in the blood-stream after the sudden removal of the toxin-producing body in a way similar to that seen in delirium tremens. Further, the speaker stated that there were certain grounds for the belief that a low blood calcium content tended to mental instability and predisposed the C.N.S. to attacks from selective toxins. Since there is an increased demand on the maternal calcium supply during pregnancy, as evidenced by the deterioration in teeth, this should be borne in mind when taking care of a case of pregnancy. He emphasised the fact that morning sickness, trace of albumen in the urine, or a tendency to insomnia, were not normal concomitants of pregnancy, but were evidence of toxicity, and where there is toxicity there is a serious danger of insanity. He outlined methods of early recognition and prevention of this complication.

Dr. Watson advanced the theory that prolonged worry *per se* caused formation of a toxin, as did also excessive and prolonged physical exertion. He believed that shell-shocked patients during the war were suffering from a definite pathological entity produced by this "worry toxin." Ordinary fatigue has been known to cause hallucinations. The "Angels of Mons" were probably a visual hallucination produced by the toxins of worry and fatigue.

The annual dinner of the Londonderry Medical Society was held in the Northern Counties Hotel on Saturday, 26th November, at which there was a very good attendance of members of the Society and guests. Previous to the dinner a presentation was made to the hon. secretary, Dr. J. A. L. Johnston. Dr. J. Galway Cooke, on behalf of the members of the Society, congratulated Dr. Johnston on his forthcoming marriage, and presented him with a set of entrée dishes suitably inscribed for the occasion.

J. A. L. JOHNSTON, *Hon. Secretary.*

19 Clarendon Street, Londonderry.

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## REVIEW

INJECTION TREATMENT IN MEDICAL PRACTICE. By David Levi, M.B., M.S., F.R.C.S.Eng. Cassel & Co., London. 6s. net. pp. 150; figs. 26.

THIS little book should be of very great value to the busy practitioner, as it gives in a succinct manner the essential details of the technique employed in the injection treatment of such common conditions as varicose veins, hydrocele, piles, bursæ, etc. The work is based upon the personal experience of the author, and is essentially a practical book. There are also short chapters on blood transfusion, cistern puncture, and intratracheal injections of lipiodol. These latter chapters are, however, too short and condensed to be of much value, and indeed few general practitioners would care to devote the time necessary to acquire the special skill requisite for their performance. The book can be most warmly recommended to the practitioner.